Azerbaijan: History and Contemporary Politics

Azerbaijan in Global Context - Media and Analysis Center, Toronto, Canada www.azglobalcontext.org

LAKE OF GEKCHA / SEVANGA / SEVAN AND AZERBAIJANI IRAVAN KHANATE

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Created: 10 October, 2024

Online version available at:
https://www.azglobalcontext.org/2024/09/lake-of-gekcha-sevanga-sevan-and.html

Fig 1: Lake of Gekcha / Sevanga and Qajar Iran's Azerbaijani Iravan Khanate, Transcaucasia in 1801 – 1813, published in Tiflis, 1901, legend in Russian.

Imperial Russia's official map (1801-1813) shows the ceded by the Qajars (Turk/Azeri dynasty of Iran, Azerbaijani: *Qacarlar*) Iravan Khanate (Persian: *Khānāt-e Iravān*, Azerbaijani: *Irəvan xanlığı,* Russian: *Erivan*) and the Lake of Gekcha (Azerbaijani: *Göyçə*/*Gökçe*, Turkish: *Kökçe*)/ Sevanga that means blue water.

In Classical Antiquity the lake was called *Lychnitis Lacus*, (Ancient Greek: *Λυχνῖτις*), meaning blue and transparent water.

The lake's name has Sasanian origin and derives from *Sivāng-e/ Sivān* (Pahlavi/Middle Persian).

Notably, the name of Hrazdan River (Pahlavi: *Hurazdān,* Azerbaijani/ Turkish: *Zangi/ Zanga çay*), which flows out from the lake, is derived from the Middle Persian name *Frazdān* which is related to the Zoroastrian mythology. Frazdān is the name of the lake mentioned in the Avesta (*Frazdānu*). Frazdānu is composed of the elements "fraz“ elevated, high and "dānu“ river”.

Fig 2: Lake of Gekcha or Sevanga

The Russified name Sevanga originates from the Middle Persian *Sivāng-e*.

The Armenized name Sevan is a corrupted form of the Russified name Sevanga, which derives from the Middle Persian *Sivāng-e*.

Finally, James Russell correctly mentioned that Armenian toponymns are borrowings from the Parthian Arsacid and the Sasanian periods.

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